constitutional body it is facing severe criticism for its arrangements for elections conducted recently;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering necessary reforms to strengthen the commission for enabling it to improve its functioning and to discharge its statutory duties;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Pending court cases

60. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) number of cases, civil and criminal pending in the Supreme Court and the different High Courts for over five years as on July 1, 2005;

(b) the vacancies of judges in each Court as on date; and

(c) the special steps, if any, taken and being taken to expedite disposal of the arrears, in the light of recent advice of the Hon'ble President of India to the judges to put in extra hours of work for expediting disposal of such cases and clearance of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) A statement is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) The proposal to introduce double shift system of courts was examined by the Government alongwith many other measures to reduce delays in the legal system. In view of the lack of support from the State Governments/ High Courts, the proposal for double shifts in courts has not been pursued further.

Statement

Vacancies of Judges in Courts

Sl. No	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength As on 19.7.2005	Working Strength	No. of vacancies
A.	Supreme Court of India	26	23	03
B.	High Court	Total	Total	Total
1.	Allahabad	95	76	19
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	30	09
3.	Bombay	60	60	—
4.	Calcutta	50	34	16
5.	Chhattisgarh	08	08	—
6.	Delhi	33	28	05
7.	Gauhati	19	18	01
8.	Gujarat	42	35	07
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	07	01
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	11	03
11.	Jharkhand	12	06	06
12.	Karnataka	40	34	06
13.	Kerala	29	28	01
14.	Madhya Pradesh	36	32	04
15.	Madras	42	24	18
16.	Orissa	20	14	06
17.	Patna	31	23	08
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	29	11
19.	Rajasthan	40	31	09
20.	Sikkim	03	02	01
21.	Uttaranchal	09	09	—
	TOTAL	670	539	131